7. The ice dispenser of claim 1 further comprising a beverage dispenser mounted to the housing in proximity to the ice discharge opening.

8. An ice dispenser comprising:

a) a housing;

b) an ice chest mounted to the housing and adapted to contain ice therein;

c) a conduit extending from the ice chest to at least one ice discharge opening, the conduit communicating with the ice chest to receive ice from the chest, wherein the conduit has at least one substantially transparent conduit segment having transparent portions which are visible to an ice dispenser user;

d) a flexible cable which extends through the conduit;

e) a plurality of paddles connected to the cable at spaced intervals, such that the paddles are advanced through the conduit as the cable is pulled, wherein the paddles are adapted to engage against and convey ice from the ice chest through the transparent conduit segment to the ice discharge opening, such that the ice to be dispensed is visible through the transparent conduit segment to the ice dispenser user.

9. The ice dispenser of claim 8 further comprising a light mounted within the housing to illuminate the ice contained within the transparent conduit segment.

10. The ice dispenser of claim 8 wherein the transparent conduit segment comprises an inner transparent tube and an outer transparent tube surrounding the inner tube, and wherein an insulative gap is defined between the inner and outer transparent tubes and a gas is disposed between the tubes.

11. The ice dispenser of claim 8 further comprising:

a) portions of the conduit defining a return opening spaced after the discharge opening in the direction of paddle travel; and

an ice return tube extending from the return opening to the ice chest, such that ice engaged by the paddles is received through the return opening and conveyed to the ice chest by the ice return tube as the cable paddle assembly is advanced through the conduit.

12. The ice dispenser of claim 8 further comprising a rotatable auger mounted within the chest and adapted to advance ice contained within the chest to the conduit.

13. The ice dispenser of claim 12 further comprising a rotatable shaft mounted to rotate above the auger, the shaft having a plurality of radially extending protrusions adapted to break up agglomerations of ice contained within the chest.

14. The ice dispenser of claim 8 further comprising a beverage dispenser mounted to the housing in proximity to the ice discharge opening.

15. The ice dispenser of claim 8 wherein the ice discharge opening is located in the conduit between two transparent conduit segments.

16. The ice dispenser of claim 8 further comprising a gate valve disposed in the ice discharge opening, the gate valve being operable to alternatively block or permit the escape of ice through the discharge opening.

17. The ice dispenser of claim 8 further comprising a rotatable sprocket engaged with the paddles and a drive motor connected to rotate the sprocket to advance the paddles through the conduit.

18. The ice dispenser of claim 17 further comprising a controller electronically connected to the drive motor to advance the paddles for a preset period of time at preset intervals.

19. An ice dispenser comprising:

housing;

b) an ice chest mounted to the housing and adapted to contain ice therein;

c) a conduit extending from the ice chest to at least one ice discharge opening, the conduit communicating with the ice chest to receive ice from the chest; and

d) at least one transparent conduit segment connected to the conduit, wherein portions of the conduit are substantially transparent, and the transparent conduit segment is visible to an ice dispenser user, and wherein the transparent conduit segment has an inner transparent tube and an outer transparent tube surrounding the inner tube, and wherein an insulative gap is defined between the inner and outer transparent tubes such that ice may be conveyed through the inner tube from the housing to the discharge opening.

20. The ice dispenser of claim 19 further comprising a light mounted within the housing to illuminate the ice contained within the transparent conduit segment.

21. The ice dispenser of claim 19 wherein the ice discharge opening is located in the conduit between two transparent conduit segments.

22. The ice dispenser of claim 19 further comprising a gate valve disposed in the ice discharge opening, the gate valve being operable to alternatively block or permit the escape of ice through the discharge opening.

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